

Functional Skills English

Reading Level 1

Sample Paper 5

Music Concert

Source Documents

Sample Assessment
Functional Skills English
Reading Level 1

Music Concert

Source Documents

Read both documents.

Use **Document 1** to answer questions 1 to 9.

Use **Document 2** to answer questions 10 to 18.

Use **both** documents to answer questions 19 and 20.

Document 1 – concert review. Use this document to answer questions 1-9.

Elsa: a feel-good pop party, By Naomi Oyelowo

After her single *Never Let Anyone Change My Mind* reached number one in the UK charts last year, Elsa has left us craving more of her feel-good pop anthems, but has never released a full album... until now. Last week, the 22-year-old finally released her debut album *Whatever Works*, named after one of the tracks on the album.

She's still kept her 'girl next door' image even though she won a high-profile award for best newcomer two years ago. With all her success, it's amazing that she's so down to earth. She seems like the kind of artist who would love to just hang out with her fans.

She's played sell-out shows at the Sage Gateshead and Birmingham Academy, and it won't be long before she's bouncing onto the Manchester Apollo stage later in the year. But last night she descended on Visions, a small club in Brighton, to perform a relaxed and intimate showcase of her debut album, happily chatting away with her fans in between songs.

Not many people could go on stage and make such a simple look of jeans, white t-shirt and a ponytail look cool, but Elsa's style is 'authenticism'. She dresses just like her audience and they love her for it! She shows her 'dance like nobody's watching' spirit, hitting melodies and air punching every thumping beat.



Elsa fans at Visions

After performing here at Visions for an under-18 audience just a couple of hours earlier, the Swedish artist returns entirely fresh for the next show. She manages to distract the crowd from the sticky carpets and stale smell in the club. Adults and teens alike climb onto tables. It's clear that this is an artist who is loved by different generations.

Opening with the title track from her new album, the singer projects complete confidence through an explosive start. Next, she brings things back down, sliding into *Payback*, a delicate track about feeling down after a painful break-up.

The build-up to the chorus of *Friends* is just irresistible – and Elsa knows it. She's beaming wildly and has everyone dazzled by the addictive rise and fall of the verses and heavy bass of the chorus. For me, it's her best song and was undeniably the highlight of the evening.

She departs with *Can't Let You Go*, which reminds me of her positive message to stand up tall and 'never let anyone change my mind'.

ELSA 'Whatever Works'

1. Never Let Anyone Change My Mind
2. Whatever Works
3. Payback
4. Can't Let You Go
5. Friends
6. Lonely
7. The Bridge
8. Today

Document 2 – magazine article. Use this document to answer questions 10-18.

Rose Taylor meets Elsa – a pop superstar in the making

After bursting onto the world stage two years ago, Swedish singer Elsa has become an international star. On the release of her debut album *Whatever Works*, she talks to us about her music, performing and her girl-next-door look.



Elsa in action

How would you describe your music?

Um... that's a toughie. I guess my music is classic song writing, but we try to put a modern twist on it. At the start it was just me, but now I like to collaborate with people and get a different style and feel from another writer. That was the way we wrote *Lonely*, which is my best song. I also try to have a message in everything I write. *Payback*, you know, that's about how you've got to believe in yourself if you want to succeed in life.

Do you enjoy being on stage?

I love it, but... how do I put this? When I'm up there, I'm super nervous. Singers are supposed to concentrate on looking glamorous; I'm just trying not to trip up or forget the words! I might look confident, but I don't always feel it! I'll always be energetic and give everything on stage though, no matter how I'm feeling.

Do you think people love the way you dress?

Haha, I wish. Nah, I'm so rubbish at fashion. In my daily life I wear jeans and t-shirts and trainers and pretty much the same look when I perform - it's my trademark look. I think for me being on stage, the most important thing is that I'm comfortable in what I'm wearing - it's certainly not cool!

Elsa's amazing album ***Whatever Works*** is available for you to buy NOW!

Elsa: What you need to know

- Her full name is Elsa Mae Karlsson, but like her musical heroes Prince and Madonna, she is known by just her first name.
- She won the award for best newcomer, given by the Institute of Swedish Music.
- At the age of ten Elsa won a national competition for fiolspelman*.
- Elsa was born in a busy industrial town in Sweden, where she still lives.



Elsa's home town

*players of Swedish folk music

